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## Why Go to Pittsburg --- A Symposium

1. By Our President, Arthur W. Mason, Columbus, Ind.

It is our desire to impress upon all Supervisors of Music the importance of the coming annual session of the Conference at Pittsburg. It is probable that this meeting will exert a powerful influence on the development of school music in this country. The indications point to a large attendance of teachers who come in an earnest professional spirit. Every number on the program has been selected because of its vital relation to the different phases of the school and community. The Conference is, in spite of its youth, the most virile of our national musical organizations. It is in intimate touch with the great national musical awakening that is taking place. It has lead in the movement for new methods of school music teaching, and the relating of the school to the community. Every one who attends will receive inspiration and help from associating with those who are featured in the program. Every one will extend his acquaintances, and broaden his viewpoint through meeting people from all parts of the country.

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2. By Our Host, Will Earhart, Pittsburg, Pa.

The Department of Music of the Pittsburg Public Schools and the public schools throughout their entire staff extend to the coming visitors of the Music Supervisors' National Conference a most cordial word of welcome.

We are planning to show you our system from garret to cellar. We have a unique situation which gives

almost every phase of our school music work unusual interest. Three years ago, there were sixty-three separate school districts in Pittsburg. While there was some uniformity in their curriculums and administrative plans there was also diversity. Music had but a moderate value in the educational thought, and standardization throughout the city was not to be found. The new State School Code reorganized these separate districts into one large school district with a single central Board of Education of fifteen members and with centralization and unification of plans for all special departments. The present administration is about three years old. A new system in music has been adopted, music has been introduced for the first time as a subject for regular practice and study in the high schools and choral and orchestral organizations and classes have been organized in the Evening School and Social Center Extension Work.

We wish you to see what we are doing and what we yet have to do, and learn what we hope to do during your stay with us.

We have a corps of twelve supervisors of music in the grades, five special teachers of music in high schools, and a number of special teachers and conductors in the evening schools. They are all looking forward to the meetings of the Conference for help and inspiration. I cannot speak too highly of the splendid spirit that pervades this entire corps.

We are particularly desirous that our visitors come on Monday. We

want them to have that day, in addition to Tuesday morning, for visiting schools of widely different character. Pittsburg has some sixty per cent of foreign born children and children of foreign born parents. Different districts are therefore of diverse nature in more than ordinary degree. There is also diversity still in the music as a result of the diverse conditions with regard to music that obtained before the new school system began its administration. The visiting program should, therefore, be a liberal one. Further, on Monday night, we are bringing to you in Schenley Hotel our choruses and orchestras from the evening schools. We think this work is of extraordinary promise and we should like you to get a vivid impression of this phase of the public educational work in music here.

Headquarters are announced in Hotel Schenley. This hotel, it should be understood, is three miles from the center of the city and reservations should be made early in order to insure a place in the neighborhood of the meetings and programs. Mr. W. D. Roberts, of the North Industrial School, is organizing a squad of boys from that school to serve as guides for the delegates. These boys will meet the trains and pilot our visitors through the somewhat irregular topography of Pittsburg to the Schenley Hotel, and later from the hotel to the school buildings which we will have open to visitors.

In the event that you are not met by some guide on the Reception Committee, you can reach the Schenley Hotel in fifteen minutes by taking any one of the following street cars wherever you may find them in the

downtown district, or in whatever direction they seem to be going:—

Numbers 63 to 72 inclusive and 76 to 80 inclusive.

In closing let me again assure you of our welcome and urge you to come early and stay long.

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3. By Our Treasurer, James McIlroy, Jr., McKeesport, Pa.

“Why I intend to go to the Pittsburg meeting and why I want others to come.”

When I read the above subject assigned me my thought struck the following from a well known hymn:

I love to tell the story,  
It did so much for me;  
And that is just the reason  
I tell it now to thee.

(And I have no reference to the fact that I am treasurer, either.)

Had it not been that I attended the meeting of the M. S. N. C. in Cincinnati 1910 and all meetings since I don't know where I should be in the procession of supervisors, somewhere near the tail end, I presume.

I will not go into detail to tell of the benefits derived from attendance at those meetings but will say that they are educational, social and inspirational. One needs but to read the program of the Pittsburg meeting to get some idea of how much is to be gained by being present.

May I add a word to those who find it impossible to attend. Become a member of the Conference and secure a copy of the proceedings. Every supervisor in the country should be a member as our numbers show the real interest that is being taken in School Music.

I hope there are none who think that only those who attend get the

benefit and therefore should pay all expenses. Remember those who attend are put to considerable expense to do so, also that they do many things for the cause which benefit every supervisor whether a member or not. Really the one who gets most for the money is the one who is a member and cannot attend, unless it be he who is not a member but reaps the benefit with the rest (indirectly, of course.)

And who wants to be in the last class?

Get into the organization and come to Pittsburg if at all possible. I'll be waiting for you—with the receipt cards.

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4. By Philip C. Hayden, Keokuk, Iowa.

The Music Supervisors' National Conference was organized in Keokuk, Iowa eight years ago in April. At that first meeting eighteen states were represented by seventy-five supervisors. The eighth meeting of this Conference will be the one to be held in Pittsburg the latter part of March. Some five or six hundred different supervisors have attended these different meetings and we believe it is safe to say that every one of these felt refreshed, benefitted, and even inspired by the meetings they have attended.

Great advances have been made in the teaching of educational music since 1907 when the Conference was organized.

The aims of the average supervisor have become much wider and much higher. The technic of music is receiving less attention and its humanizing influence a great deal more. As aims have broadened and changed, methods have broadened

and changed to correspond. It is only fair to say that the Supervisors Conference has had a large share in bringing about these improved conditions.

The program to be followed at Pittsburg has been laid out on broad lines. The leaders of the topics are competent experts and plenty of time has been allowed for general discussion. This meeting gives promise of being the best yet held by the Conference. Teachers who have to make some sacrifice to attend it will be amply repaid for all the effort it entails.

The meetings of the Conference are strictly professional and democratic, and opinions and convictions may be exchanged with the utmost freedom. This spirit of freedom and professional bonhomie has always distinguished this Conference and the plans for the Pittsburg meeting indicate that this spirit will be even more in evidence than usual at the meeting in that city.

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5. By Agnes M. Fryberger, Minneapolis, Minn.

Every music supervisor—not bedridden—should attend the Pittsburg Conference. There isn't much doubt that the men will be there, but many young women, being unassured of the practical benefits, may easily be deterred, feeling they haven't suitable clothes or cannot afford the expense. Let me make special appeal to these. In the first place, sister supervisors, any doubts and fears are evidence that you have never attended one of these National meetings. You simply haven't any idea of the kinds of inspiration that are crowded into a few days. The papers and discussions are keenly

practical and contributed by men and women of experience and authority. The surprises—not on the printed program—are quite as inspirational and important. You just never will forget the good times over the “pie and cheese.” The clear-minded high brow will be there with his brightest scintillations, and some whose names are associated with your text books will get down from their high horses and act as comedians, impersonators, interlocutors, and what not.

Seriously, there isn't one of us but knows her weak points and realizes that she must grow stronger in order to assume heavier responsibilities and increase her salary. The Pittsburg Conference will answer our questions and solve our problems, so why worry over them alone.

We should not include the Convention in our economies. It is an investment—one of the very best—for those who intend to stay in the profession. It will yield returns which neither moth nor rust nor thieves can affect.

There is advancement every year in method and material and we must keep up with the procession. In order to attend this Convention, however, we may have to make some sacrifices at the time; but we can put pride in the pockets of our old clothes (if they have pockets) and some of us who cannot persuade the Board of Education to buy our railway ticket may have to borrow money from some kind friend, but it will be a small matter compared with prospective benefits. If, later, we go over the hills to the poor house we shall have some things delightful to think about.

Finally, let's be live wires—dead ones aren't much good—and if we are not very live we may get a re-charge from the strong battery at Pittsburg!

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6. By Geo. A. Burt, Eau Claire, Wis.

It was my good fortune to be present at the Music Supervisors' National Conference held in Minneapolis last spring. It was a most helpful meeting. These annual meetings held in some large city, while the school is in session, enable one to see plenty of actual teaching conducted in the school room under practically normal conditions. These demonstrations together with the questions asked and the discussions which take place at the meetings and which are continued by smaller groups afterward, make the occasion of untold value to us all.

Such gatherings also afford an opportunity for the supervisor from smaller places to see new material and often exchange lists of teaching pieces suitable for chorals, glee clubs, orchestras, etc.

These are a few of the many reasons why every music supervisor should attend the Pittsburg meeting March 23rd—26th.

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7. By Mary Mundhenk, R. F. D.

No. 1, Brookville, Ohio.

I certainly feel that to attend the coming meeting in Pittsburg is a privilege I can not afford to lose, since self development is essential to keep children interested.

Among subjects I hope to hear discussed are:—

1st. New methods in ways of presentation of the subject to primary and grammar grades.

2nd. Some basic principles for small High Schools in rural districts.

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8. By George R. Eckert, Kokomo, Indiana.

Many thanks for your invitation to express myself regarding the Pittsburg meeting of the N. C. M. S., but I will add that I find it difficult to do the subject justice. Let me ask you if you were ever suddenly confronted with the question "What is wood"? You just answer this and you will know how I feel toward the subject of "Why I intend to go to Pittsburg and why I want others to come." The reasons for my going to Pittsburg are as real to me as wood, but I have attended a conference. Now to tell the fellow who has never had any experience with wood what wood is, is as easy as telling a supervisor, who has never attended a conference, why he should.

With the memory of the Minneapolis meeting still fresh in my mind I am anticipating Pittsburg with a keen desire. Personally I received so much in return for my attendance at the former meeting that I am doing all I can to influence other supervisors and pleading with them just to "taste, and see that it is good".

To be in the company of successful supervisors from all parts of the country, who have come together for an open, frank and friendly discussion of a common interest is a great privilege which I expect to grasp and hope others will avail themselves of the same opportunity.

Many supervisors, no doubt, hesitate as I did on account of the expense but I am glad to say I con-

sider the expense of my attendance in the light of one of the most profitable investments I ever made. To others I say, try it and know for yourself, before you let another year pass without its benefits. You will find it better than a bond for dividends.

Beside the professional work there is a social feature about these meetings of kindred spirits which is quite as valuable as the more direct. To sum the matter up in a few words I say I need the meeting and so does every other supervisor who has a right conception of his work.

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9. By Hamlen E. Cogswell, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

I expect to attend the meeting and shall take my senior class of Supervisors that they may catch the inspiration that comes from such as will be held in Pittsburg. No live supervisor can afford to stay away.

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10. By Mildred Faville, Appleton, Wisconsin.

No one, I believe, can read the preliminary program of the M. S. N. Conference to be held at Pittsburg without feeling a need to go to such a Conference. Those who attended the Conference at Minneapolis last April and reaped the benefits of the visiting, the papers and discussions will feel a greater desire than ever to go to Pittsburg this year. I believe every supervisor and special teacher from small towns as well as those from the cities will find inspiration and help for them in their individual places; for nowhere else (save at these Conferences) do we have the opportunity to inspect with such thoroughness, the work done in music in the grades

and High Schools. Two afternoons and two mornings will probably be spent in visiting the schools of the city, and that alone is worth the trip to Pittsburg. Then the papers and the discussions led by such men and women as we have longed to see at the head of our music work in the schools, are surely incentives to all of us to more and better work. Last, but very important, are the social gatherings. The acquaintances and personal interviews with the splendid men and women who are in the front ranks of the teaching force of Public School Music are advantages no supervisor, worthy the name, can afford to miss. Not only are these men and women wise, but they are generous in giving information and suggestions to those who really desire it.

These Conferences will raise Public School Music to the place it should have (and is fast obtaining) in our Educational System. No one truly interested in music and the public schools can afford to miss this Conference.

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11. By Beulah A. Hootman, Kalamazoo, Mich.

The inspiration one may gather from a meeting such as will be held at Pittsburg is one of the incentives which make me plan to attend the convention. Successful teachers must be constantly watchful for sources of new enthusiasm, new ideas and higher standards. The best way to gain these is to meet the people who are working along the same lines and who are developing problems similar to your own.

I am sure the standard of sight-singing for children was raised over all the country because of the splendid demonstrations given us in

Minneapolis last March by Mr. Giddings' classes. His work was concrete and definite, and he not only showed us what they could do but made plain how they learned to do it. I am quite certain the Pittsburg meeting will present something just as beneficial and inspiring.

There is much to be gained in meeting the same people each year, keeping in touch with the progress each has made and the work they are doing in their respective communities. To meet so many friends again makes one enthusiastic over life, and that enthusiasm is quite as important as that which is strictly professional.

Teachers must be progressive or be crowded out of the profession. Furthermore, they owe it to the public and those whom they would acceptably serve to keep their efficiency at its highest point, and these great national conventions are most effective agencies to this end.

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12. By Arthur J. Abbott, Buffalo, New York.

I am looking forward with great interest to the Pittsburg meeting which I expect to attend, going early and remaining late. The National Music Supervisors' Conference is the real live wire in public school music and deserves the support of every educator. Especially should we who are actively engaged in teaching and supervising music in public schools support the Conference, helping to make it a still stronger and more influential body. It is true that the Conference will prosper in the future, as it has in the past, without the support of every music supervisor: that is, the Conference does not need the indi-

vidual music supervisor, but most certainly every music supervisor in the land needs the Conference. So I shall attend the Pittsburg meeting knowing I am to receive more, many times over, than I can possibly give.

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13. By Nettie C. Doud, Springfield, Illinois.

Possibly I had better change my subject to "Why I want to go to Pittsburg and why others should come." I have been fortunate in being able to attend several of the meetings of the Supervisors' Conference and feel confident that the value of the Conference to the Supervisor has increased with each session. Surely the Minneapolis meeting furnished abundant material for thought and experimentation for some time to come. I am glad the Pittsburg program has provided so generously for class room visitation, for to me that has proved a most valuable feature. No matter how excellent the papers or how well discussed we often come away from a Convention with a somewhat hazy impression and often times disheartened because we have not been able to attempt all that others seem to be doing. But when we can see the laboratory work of the class room and compare notes with others interested, it makes a definite impression and proves a practical value when we return to our own duties.

I feel it a personal loss whenever I miss a meeting of the Supervisors' Conference for in the ordinary city the individual Supervisor has a rather lonesome position and must necessarily work out the problems of her department alone. As a member of the National Supervis-

ors' Conference each one becomes a part of a large force of earnest men and women who have devoted long and successful years to the work, and who are now united in the one purpose of unifying and standardizing the music of the public schools and bringing it to the highest state of efficiency. This feeling of partnership and co-operation brings a new enthusiasm, a new incentive and a new inspiration.

Success to the Pittsburg meeting!

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14. By John W. Beattie, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I came to Grand Rapids with my head filled with ideas gathered from Will Earhart. From the first I put these ideas into practice with the result that from an orchestra of eighteen pieces, we now have in Central High School two orchestras, a senior orchestra of 40 pieces which include all the instruments of the symphony orchestra, and a junior orchestra of 20 pieces; in Union High School, an orchestra of 30 instruments; in Junior High, an orchestra of 15 instruments; in five grade schools, orchestras ranging from 5 to 12 instruments. Next fall, when our new South High is completed, we will have another splendid group. This orchestral work stimulated interest in other branches of music. Classes in harmony and musical history are a direct outgrowth of it, and the choral work profits through the efforts of the singers to get their work on the same plane with that done by the instrumentalists.

The main benefit, however, lies in the education received by the pupils not engaged in any musical activity. At our school assemblies, every pupil sees and hears a big orchestra.



He learns the various instruments, their function and position in the orchestra and their tone quality. Then, when he is asked to buy a ticket to a symphony program, given in his own school building in the afternoon, and at no greater cost than he would be put to in attending a vaudeville show, we can count on him. Further, the interest taken by the children is carried into homes all over the city and our evening audiences are growing. Our people are no longer content with a simple program either, but want a regular symphony program. Finally, they are already asking for a Grand Rapids Orchestra. This is a possibility and will undoubtedly come within the next year.

When they get an orchestra, they will want a municipal chorus, ensemble groups of all kinds, in fact, good music in all its forms.

What has all this to do with my ideals for public school music? Simply this, that above sight singing ability and a knowledge of key signature, both of which are all right, I place the development of a musical feeling in a community, and I am convinced that this feeling can be developed through school activity.

### **Our Meeting Place**

So completely has Pittsburg's fame as a manufacturing community overshadowed the esthetic features of the city's life that few persons identify this busy "workshop of the world" as the birthplace of some of America's most distinguished composers. Here on July 4, 1826, was born Stephen Collins Foster, who in his brief life wrote scores of ballads and a group of southern folk songs, some of which have been enshrined

among mankind's immortal melodies. In later years Ethelbert Nevin and Charles Wakefield Cadman (whose musical education was pursued in Pittsburg,) repeated the success of Foster in attaining high rank in the list of eminent American musicians as well as in winning the personal devotion of the musical public.

Pittsburg has not been too busy amassing wealth to honor the memory of Foster. In his old home the din of the forge has a classic sound to the ambitious Pittsburger, but in this clamor of iron and steel and the consequent jangle of silver and gold there is always the softer cadence of the obligato in tribute to the genius of Pittsburg's beloved plantation poet and musician. About a year ago James H. Park, a retired steel manufacturer, bought the old Foster manor house and presented it to the city to be maintained as a permanent museum of Foster relics. In Highland park is a magnificent bronze statue of the composer in an attitude of writing the score of a song. At his feet sits a typical "Old Uncle Ned" complacently thrumming a banjo.

In Pittsburg there is a large and growing coterie of musicians and music patrons who are liberal in their endowment of the musical arts. The musical atmosphere maintained in Pittsburg makes it an ideal city in which to hold a convention of organizations interested in musical education. With the convention headquarters at the Hotel Schenley all points of interest to the delegates are within walking distance. Adjoining the hotel is the civic center including the Carnegie Institute with its music hall, library,

art galleries and museum; the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall, the Masonic Temple, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the Margaret Morrison School for Women, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Pittsburg Athletic Association, the University Club, the Twentieth Century Club and the University of Pittsburg. The hotel faces the main entrance to Schenley Park and is in the center of the fashionable residence district.

### Expenses at Pittsburg

Hotel Schenley (Headquarters)  
Rooms, (price per person) single \$2.00 and up: double \$1.50 and up; where there are several beds in a room, \$1.25. Meals, a la carte; table d' hote luncheon, 50 cents; tickets to banquet \$1.00.

Concerning other accommodations, Mr. Earhart writes:

Down-town hotels of more moderate rates are as follows:—

New Colonial, Federal St.  
Anderson, Federal St.

Letters addressed to these would bring prompt information as to rates.

Some fifteen minutes' ride on the other side of the Schenley district is the East Liberty district. Here there are several hotels of more moderate rate than the Schenley. The neighborhood is pleasant. I append a list of these:

New Lamont, Spahr and Alder Sts.

Lorraine, 420 No. Highland Ave.

Hotel Dorset, Center Ave & Beatty Sts.

In the Schenley district are the following:

Hotel Oakland, 3713 Fifth Ave.

Hotel Bryn Mawr, 648 Bryn Mawr St.

Hotel Edwards, 49 Bates St.

There is no other hotel in the neighborhood, but there are boarding houses innumerable within easy distance. I think the only announcement that can be made is to that effect—that comfortable quarters in nearby boarding houses can be secured at lower rates than those of Hotel Schenley. We will have guides to help people find them.

The dues for membership in the National Music Supervisors' Conference are two dollars for the first year and one dollar annually thereafter. This fee admits to all meetings and entitles the member to a copy of the annual proceedings.

*Membership is open to any one interested in public school music.*

## Three Forthcoming Discussions

### Things for you to think over and to do

#### ULTIMATE ENDS AND OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT

At the time appointed for the discussion of this topic it is planned by the Chairman to propose two questions: viz., First, what is the reason for teaching music in the Public Schools, and what purpose are we attempting to accomplish in insisting that music shall be included in the curricula of all elementary schools? Second, What means are both feasible and fitting to accomplish these ends?

Upon the first of these two points there is a fairly unanimous agreement among many music supervisors; but upon the second question, widely differing views are held. Some think that sight-singing is sufficient to accomplish all ends: some that song-singing will do it. Some contend for more emphasis upon theoretical knowledge as conducting to a more intelligent *appreciation* of Music upon the child's part: others feel that the development of the phonograph has solved the problem